

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, SS

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERS WESTERN SAHARA

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING A STATEMENT BY POLISARIO REP
MAGID ABDALLAH AND BRIEF REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE CONGO AND CUBA, THE COMMITTEE OF 24 DECIDED
AUGUST 28 TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM AT ITS
NEXT SESSION (IN 1979). END SUMMARY.

2. MAGID ABDALLAH, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLISARIO,
DELIVERED A STATEMENT OUTLINING RECENT HISTORY OF THE
WESTERN SAHARA AND RECALLED COMMITMENTS MADE BY SPAIN,
MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA IN SUPPORT OF FREE EXERCISE OF
THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE PEOPLE OF THE
TERRITORY. HE DECLARED THAT THE MISSION OF OLOF
RYDBECK (SWEDEN) WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE UN ACTION
BUT UNFORTUNATELY HE WAS PREVENTED FROM FULLY
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DISCHARGING HIS MANDATE; THE RESULTS SHOULD BE FULLY
REPORTED TO THE UN. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONTINUED
TO GROW, HE CLAIMED, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ARAB NATIONS:
16 STATES RECOGNIZED THE SAHARA AS A STATE AND 50 STATES
RECOGNIZED THE POLISARIO AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SAHARA. THE POLISARIO
FRONT HAD UNILATERALLY DECIDED ON A TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE,

HE SAID, TO ALLOW THE PRESENT MAURITANIAN ADMINISTRATION
TO PULL OUT OF THE WAR WAGED BY THE PREVIOUS
ADMINISTRATION.

3. THE CONGO REPRESENTATIVE (MALONGA) SPOKE A FEW WORDS
OF SUPPORT AND PROPOSED THAT THE POLISARIO STATEMENT BE
REPRODUCED IN EXTENSO IN RECORDS OF THE MEETING. CUBA
(ALVAREZ SANCHEZ) GAVE A LONGER SPEECH OF SUPPORT AND
REFERRED TO THE REPORT OF THE VISITING MISSION OF
MAY 1975 OF WHICH CUBA WAS A MEMBER. HE REAFFIRMED THE
CUBAN POSITION THAT "ANY DECOLONIZATION SOLUTION IN THE
REGION SHOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF THE RIGHT OF THE SAHARAN
PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AFTER ALL
AGGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE TERRITORY HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN".

4. CONCLUDING THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT, IN
THE ABSENCE OF ANY OBJECTION, THE COMMITTEE WOULD DECIDE
TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM AT ITS NEXT
SESSION (1979) "SUBJECT TO ANY DIRECTION THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY MIGHT GIVE". THE RAPPORTEUR WAS ALSO AUTHORIZED
TO TRANSMIT ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE ITEM TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. VERBATIM RECORD OF MEETING BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT
(IO/UNP/SVENDSEN) AND OTHER ADDRESSEES.

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